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OUR MISSION

The Las Cruces Public Schools,  
in partnership with students,  
families, and the community,  
provides a student-centered  
learning environment that  
cultivates character, fosters  
academic excellence, and  
embraces diversity.

August 25, 2014

Federal Communications Commission

*RE: Letter of Support Comcast Cable/Time Warner Cable*

Dear Sir or Madam:

Las Cruces, New Mexico houses the second largest public school district in the state, representing 39 schools, approximately 25,000 students, and 3,800 employees. The Las Cruces Public School District is supported by the Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation, a private, non-profit corporation, with a mission to raise funds, provide financial help for student centered projects, and improve the quality of classroom learning experiences.

It has come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission is currently reviewing Comcast Cable's proposed merger with Time Warner Cable. I write you today in support of the proposed merger. As Superintendent of Schools for the Las Cruces Public School District, I have experienced firsthand the commitment that Comcast Cable has shown toward improving our communities and schools.

One of the most concrete ways that Comcast Cable has shown its commitment has been the annual Comcast Cares Day. I have read that Comcast Cares Day is the nation's largest single day corporate volunteer event. I am proud to say, Las Cruces Public Schools held the nation's most attended Comcast Cares Day in 2013. Held at Doña Ana Elementary School, Comcast and its partners were able to attract 1,500 volunteers, which was the largest number of volunteers at any Comcast Cares Day event in 2013. As Las Cruces is in a Comcast Cable market, we are able to enjoy the benefits that come with a company so invested in community involvement. If Comcast Cable were to merge with Time Warner Cable, the Comcast Cares Day event would reach new school districts near and far.

I would also like to commend the tremendous efforts Comcast Cable has made over the last four years to bridge the digital divide and bring broadband to more of our students. In 2011, John Christopher, New Mexico State Director for Comcast Cable, announced the launch of Internet Essentials, a program that offers discounted Internet service to low-income families. Today, Internet access is an essential and basic requirement for a successful education, as we work to

take our curriculums online, and make them instantly accessible from anywhere. Since the 2011 launch of that program, Comcast Cable has experienced exponential growth, and has connected more than 7,000 families in New Mexico to the Internet. Each year there is an increase of families that enroll in the program.

Comcast Cable is leveling the playing field so that all our students can have the resources they need to thrive and succeed. If Comcast Cable were to merge with Time Warner Cable, the Internet Essentials program would be able to reach many more students in cities like El Paso, Los Angeles, Dallas, and New York, and would be able to take a large step in decreasing the digital divide.

Children in New Mexico and communities across the nation deserve equal access to the tools and opportunities that give them the best chances of succeeding and becoming leaders. I know that Comcast Cable has made this one of its main goals, as it recently announced the indefinite extension of Internet Essentials. If a merger between Comcast Cable and Time Warner Cable means that all our students will be supplied with the tools needed for success in today's electronic age, then I support that merger, and I hope that you will too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stan Rounds', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Stan Rounds  
Superintendent of Schools

/tg

xc: Commissioner Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel